

Mr. Helder Gil
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 Fourth St. SW
Room 5164
Washington DC 20024

Dear Mr. Gil,

Our names are Cristen and Kevin Sizemore and we are owners of That Cheesecake Truck which currently runs in Washington DC. We are also a part of a brick and mortar bakery located in Gaithersburg, MD.

Sweetz Cheesecake has been in business since 1989, started by my father, and is both a wholesaler and retail space delivering to restaurants and hotels mainly in the District. Through our retail location we also do fundraising for many schools, churches, and sports organizations in the area. Our mobile food truck started in the summer of 2011 as an extension of our company. Our next phase of expansion includes a retail space in Washington.

When the regulations were released we were hopeful that they would be written in a way that would allow everyone to operate together in fairness, but that is simply not the case. The restrictions in these vending regulations will put us out of business along with many other truck owners. We are a small business and have devoted blood, sweat, and tears' ensuring this venture is successful. We, like many other owners, have emptied our life savings into a business model and philosophy that can truly benefit so many people within the DC Community.

The new language that defines the lottery system for MRV zones is extremely concerning. The fact that a percentage of trucks can theoretically be unable to vend for an entire month is unimaginable? Can you imagine any other business being forced to close its business in high traffic areas for a month? It simply would not and could not happen. In addition, the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk restriction is at face value prohibitive. After we personally spent many hours over the weekend measuring sidewalks and their obstructions, we determined that nearly all of the central business district would be off limits to food trucks not lucky enough to win a spot in the lottery system. If these regulations pass, it eliminates our right and desire to compete within the downtown market. We are law abiding, tax paying, hardworking small business owners who don't need to be put out of business in order to be regulated. These regulations are setting a dangerous precedent that city regulators stomp on the necks of small business.

We work closely with many charitable organizations within DC, as our motto is "where giving comes full circle". 10% of all our proceeds go to different charities such as Bread for the City and Miriam's Kitchen, which seems the right thing to do for a city that has been so generous to our family for the past twenty years.

We moved to this area as a young married couple, with dreams of starting a business that would flourish into the opportunity to provide for our future family and ourselves. We learned quickly that nothing comes easily or quickly. We truly have a passion for what we do, and want to continue to give our lives to this thriving market. Any food truck owner or small business owner will tell you, that the blood, sweat, and tears, you shed to start your own business, whether it be a food truck or a brick and mortar, requires a dedication like no other. Although we understand the challenges in finding the middle ground between two thriving industries, we ask that we simply be given the opportunity to participate in a fair market. These regs will quiet simply dictate the future of our family owned business for over twenty years.

We all want new regulations for the food truck industry that allow us to operate and be in compliance. We simply ask for fair and direct regulations. This allows everyone to continue to move forward with their businesses and expand in a city we enjoy being a part of.

Sincerely,
Cristen and Kevin Sizemore
That Cheesecake Truck
Sweetz Cheesecake